

1 **TAIL PIPE ORNAMENT & METHOD**

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3 **INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

4
5 The inventor incorporates herein by reference any and all U. S.
6 patents, U. S. patent applications, and other documents cited or
7 referred to in this application or cited or referred to in the U. S. patents
8 and U. S. patent applications incorporated herein by reference.

9
10 **DEFINITIONS**

11
12 The words "comprising," "having," "containing," and "including,"
13 and other forms thereof, are intended to be equivalent in meaning and
14 be open ended in that an item or items following any one of these
15 words is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of such item or items, or
16 meant to be limited to only the listed item or items.

17
18 **BACKGROUND OF INVENTION**

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20 Automotive accessories are sold to consumers who desire to
21 customize their automotive vehicles. One such an accessory is a
22 chrome-plated tail pipe. The standard tail pipe is removed and the
23 chrome-plated tail pipe is attached usually by welding it to the outlet
24 of the muffler of the exhaust system. These tail pipes come in a wide
25 variety of configurations, some of which have dual outlets and others
26 have an outer end cut at an acute angle. The 2002 through 2003
27 (Volume 3) DT Sports catalogue discloses examples of such custom tail
28 pipes distributed by Different Trends, LLC of Buena Park, California.

1 element may be essentially a solid structure that prevents exhaust gas
2 from flowing therethrough. Or, the ornamental element may be
3 essentially an open structure that allows exhaust gas to flow
4 therethrough. An ornamental element may have at least a portion that
5 is light reflective. For example, the portion that is light reflective may
6 correspond to the symbol.

7 Three, the ornamental element is sized to provide sufficient space
8 to allow exhaust gas to exit the exposed open end of the tail pipe
9 without substantially impeding gas flow. Typically, the exposed open
10 end of the tail pipe has a maximum total area and the ornamental
11 element occupies no more than 90 percent of this maximum total area.
12 For example, the maximum total area may be from about 8 to 20 about
13 square inches. When the ornamental element occupies no more than
14 about 90 percent of this maximum total area, the exhaust gas flows
15 past the ornamental element unimpeded. If the ornamental element is
16 an opening in a solid plate, the opening constitutes no more than about
17 90 percent of this maximum total area.

18 Four, a tubular member or sleeve may be employed. When this
19 invention comprises a modification of a standard tail pipe, this
20 standard pipe includes a tubular member. When this invention
21 comprises an ornament adapted to be connected to the exposed open
22 end of a standard tail pipe, it includes a sleeve that is connected to the
23 exposed open end of the tail pipe either fitted over this end or pushed
24 into this end. Both the tubular member of the standard tail pipe and
25 the sleeve have a longitudinal axis and provide a passageway extending
26 between the exposed open end and an inner end in communication
27 with the exhaust system of the vehicle. The exhaust gas flows between
28 the inner end and the exposed open end through the passageway. The
29 tubular member, sleeve, and ornamental element usually are made of

1 stainless steel and may be chrome plated.

2 Five, in the embodiment including a sleeve to be connected to the
3 exposed open end of the tail pipe, the tubular sleeve comprises a wall
4 member having a configuration substantially the same as the
5 configuration of the exposed end of the tail pipe. Whether the sleeve
6 fits over or is inserted into the exposed open end of the tail pipe, it fits
7 snug therewith. The exposed open end of the tail pipe and an adjacent
8 internal hollow body portion are usually of substantially the same
9 configuration. In the embodiment where the sleeve is inserted into this
10 exposed open end, the sleeve has a wall member with an external
11 configuration substantially the same as the internal configuration of
12 the open outer end and adjacent internal hollow body portion of the
13 tail pipe. Consequently, the sleeve, upon being inserted into the open
14 outer end and adjacent internal hollow body portion, fits snug within
15 the tail pipe, with the sleeve's and tail pipe's respective longitudinal
16 axes being coextensive. When the sleeve is fitted over the exposed,
17 open end of the tail pipe, the sleeve has a wall member with an internal
18 configuration substantially the same as the external configuration of
19 the open outer end. A widely used sleeve configuration is cylindrical,
20 although it may have other shapes such as, for example, oval,
21 rectangular, hexagonal, etc. Typically, a cylindrical sleeve comprises a
22 substantially cylindrical wall member having an inside diameter from
23 about 2 to about 7 inches, a length from about 1/4 to about 6 inches,
24 and a thickness from about 1/8 to about 1/2 inches.

25 Six, the ornamental element may have a body member with
26 opposed ends. The ornamental element may have at least two
27 connector arms extending outwardly from the body member in
28 substantially opposed directions. Each arm has a terminal end
29 attached to an inner surface portion of the tubular member or sleeve,

1 as the case may be. In one embodiment, each opposed end is spaced
2 substantially the same distance from an inner surface portion of the
3 tubular member or sleeve, as the case may be. Typically, this
4 arrangement is employed when the outer end lies in a plane that is at
5 substantially a right angle with respect to the longitudinal axis. In
6 another embodiment, the body member is positioned off center.
7 Typically this arrangement is employed when the outer end of the
8 tubular member or the sleeve lies in a plane that is at an acute angle
9 with respect to its longitudinal axis. For example, the acute angle may
10 be from about 35 to 85 about degrees, typically 45 about degrees. In
11 this situation, the body member is offset with respect to the
12 longitudinal axis so that one of its opposed ends is closer to an inner
13 wall of the tubular member or sleeve, as the case may be, than the
14 other opposed end.

15 Seven, it is desirable, but not absolutely necessary, to include a
16 fastener element that enables the tail pipe ornament to be connected to
17 the tail pipe in a fixed position relative to the tail pipe. This fastener
18 element may be between the ornamental element and the inner end of
19 the sleeve.

20 These features are not listed in any rank order nor is this list
21 intended to be exhaustive.

22 This invention also includes a method of decorating a tail pipe of
23 an automotive exhaust system where the tail pipe has a passageway
24 through which exhaust gas flows and exits an exposed, open end of the
25 tail pipe. This method comprises connecting to the tail pipe an
26 ornamental element including a symbol at or near said exposed, open
27 end of the tail pipe. The ornament is positioned so that an observer
28 when looking at the exposed, open end of the tail pipe would see the
29 symbol. The ornamental element may be constructed as discussed

1 above and it may be integral with a tail pipe or be a separate sleeve
2 attached to the tail pipe as discussed above.

3 4 DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING

5
6 Some embodiments of this invention, illustrating all its features,
7 will now be discussed in detail. These embodiments depict the novel
8 and non-obvious tail pipe, tail pipe ornament, and method of this
9 invention as shown in the accompanying drawing, which is for
10 illustrative purposes only. This drawing includes the following figures
11 (Figs.), with like numerals indicating like parts:

12
13 Fig. 1 is a an exploded perspective view of one embodiment of the
14 tail pipe ornament of this invention having an ornamental element
15 seated within a sleeve adapted to be inserted into an exposed, open
16 end of a tail pipe of an automotive exhaust system.

17 Fig. 1A is a perspective view showing the tail pipe ornament
18 depicted in Fig. 1 inserted into the tail pipe of an automotive exhaust
19 system.

20 Fig. 1B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 1B-1B of Fig. 1A.

21 Fig. 2A is a plan view of a tail pipe having an exposed, open end
22 that is at an acute angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the tail
23 pipe.

24 Fig. 2B is a perspective view of the tail pipe shown in Fig. 2A.

25 Fig. 2C is a side view of the tail pipe shown in Fig. 2A, with a
26 section broken away.

27 Fig. 2D is an end view taken along line 2D-2D of Fig. 2C.

28 Fig. 3A is a perspective view of an embodiment of the tail pipe
29 ornament of this invention adapted to be inserted into the tail pipe

1 shown in Figs. 2A through 2 D.

2 Fig. 3B is another perspective view of the embodiment of this
3 invention shown in Fig. 3A taken from a different angle.

4 Fig. 3C is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3C-3C of Fig. 3B.

5 Fig. 3D is an end view of the tail pipe ornament shown in Fig. 3A
6 looking into its open end along its longitudinal axis.

7 Fig. 4A is a plan view of the tail pipe ornament (shown in
8 phantom lines) illustrated in Figs. 3A through 3D inserted into the
9 outer end of the tail pipe illustrated in Figs. 2A through 2D.

10 Fig. 4B is a perspective view taken from a different angle of the
11 tail pipe ornament (shown in phantom lines) illustrated in Figs. 3A
12 through 3D inserted into the outer end of the tail pipe illustrated in
13 Figs. 2A through 2D.

14 Fig. 4C is a partial cross-sectional view taken along line 4C-4C of
15 Fig. 4A.

16 Fig. 4D is an end view of the assembled tail pipe ornament and
17 tail pipe from an observer's point of view looking into the exposed,
18 open end along the longitudinal axis of this assembly.

19 Fig. 5 is a perspective view depicting an alternate embodiment of
20 this invention where a tail pipe adapted to be attached to an
21 automotive exhaust system has an ornamental element mounted within
22 the tail pipe.

23 Fig. 5A is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5A-5A of Fig. 5.

24 Fig. 6 is a perspective view depicting another alternate
25 embodiment of this invention where a tail pipe adapted to be attached
26 to an automotive exhaust system has an ornamental element mounted
27 within the tail pipe.

28 Fig. 6A is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6A-6A of Fig. 6.

29 Fig. 7A depicts a series of ornamental elements in the form of

1 numbers in outline that are adapted to be attached at or near an open
2 end of the tail pipe ornament adapted to be inserted into a tail pipe or
3 attached directly to the outer end of a tail pipe.

4 Fig. 7B depicts a series of ornamental elements in the form of
5 solid Roman letters that are adapted to be attached at or near an open
6 end of the tail pipe ornament adapted to be inserted into a tail pipe or
7 attached directly to the outer end of a tail pipe.

8 Fig. 7C depicts a series of ornamental elements in the form of
9 Roman numerals in outline that are adapted to be attached at or near
10 an open end of the tail pipe ornament adapted to be inserted into a tail
11 pipe or attached directly to the outer end of a tail pipe.

12 Fig. 8A is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the tail
13 pipe ornament of this invention having an ornamental element seated
14 within a sleeve adapted to be fitted over an exposed, open end of a tail
15 pipe of an automotive exhaust system.

16 Fig. 8B is an end view taken along line 8B-8B of Fig. 8A.

17 Fig. 8C is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the tail
18 pipe ornament of this invention having an ornamental element seated
19 within a sleeve adapted to be fitted over an exposed, open end of a tail
20 pipe of an automotive exhaust system.

21 Fig. 9A is an end view of an embodiment of this invention where
22 the ornamental element is formed by cutting into a solid plate member
23 an opening in the shape of a symbol.

24 Fig. 9B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 9B-9B of Fig. 9A.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SOME EMBODIMENTS OF THIS INVENTION

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27
28 As shown in Figs. 1, 1A and 1B, one embodiment of this invention
29 a tail pipe ornament 10, includes a sleeve 12 adapted to fit snug within

1 a tail pipe 14 of an automotive exhaust system. The sleeve 12
2 comprises a substantially cylindrical wall member 12a having an inside
3 diameter d from 2 to 7 inches, a length l from 1/4 to 6 inches, and a
4 thickness t from 1/8 to 1/2 inches. It has a longitudinal passageway
5 16 extending between an open outer end 18 and an open inner end 20
6 of the sleeve. An ornamental element 22 is located at or near the outer
7 end 18, and it may be a symbol, such as, for example, the number "3."
8 A fastener element 19 (Fig. 1B) located between the ornamental
9 element 22 and the inner end 20, usually adjacent this inner end,
10 enables the tail pipe ornament 10 to be connected to the tail pipe 14 in
11 a fixed position relative to the tail pipe. This fastener 19 includes a nut
12 40a welded to an inner surface portion S of the sleeve 12. A hole 30 is
13 drilled, or otherwise formed, in the sleeve 12 at a distance D from the
14 inner end 22 opposite the nut 40a so that a bolt 40 (Fig. 1B) may be
15 threaded into the nut 40a.

16 The sleeve 12 and ornamental element 22 may be made of
17 stainless steel and may be chrome plated. Optionally, the ornamental
18 element 22 may be painted with a light reflective material. In this
19 embodiment, the ornamental element 22 is positioned centrally in the
20 outer end 18, which, as depicted in Figs. 1A and 1B, has a circular edge
21 18a that lies in a plane P that is at a right angle to the longitudinal axis
22 X of the sleeve 12.

23 As illustrated best in Figs. 1 through 1B, the ornamental element
24 22 is mounted centrally in a stationary position. To achieve this, the
25 ornamental element 22 has at least two connector arms 22a and 22b
26 (Fig. 7A) extending outwardly from its body 22c pointing in
27 substantially opposed directions. Each arm 22a and 22b has an outer
28 terminal end E1 welded to the inner surface portion S of the sleeve 12
29 to hold the ornamental element 22 in a stationary position at or near

1 the open end 18 and an inner terminal end E2 welded to opposite ends
2 of the body 22c of the ornamental element 22.

3 The ornamental element 22 may be a solid structure that
4 prevents exhaust gas from flowing through it, or it may be an open
5 structure that allows exhaust gas to flow it. In the tail pipe ornament
6 10, the ornamental element 22 is in the shape of the number "3" in
7 outline form so that gas flows through it. This "open" number "3" in
8 outline is made by bending wire into the desired shape. As discussed
9 subsequently in greater detail, this ornamental element 22 may take
10 many different shapes such as, for example, depicted in Figs. 7A, 7B,
11 and 7C. It is sized to provide sufficient space to allow exhaust gas to
12 flow through the passageway 16 in the sleeve 12, entering the inner
13 end 20 and then flowing past the ornamental element, exiting the outer
14 end 18. Usually, the outer end 18 has a maximum total area from 8 to
15 20 square inches and the ornamental element occupies no more than
16 90 percent of this maximum total area. The sleeve 12 has a
17 configuration substantially the same as the exposed, open end 14a of
18 the tail pipe 14; in this embodiment, the sleeve 12 is cylindrical, but it
19 may have other shapes with different cross-sectional configurations,
20 such as, for example, rectangular, square, oval, hexagonal, etc.
21 depending on the shape of the exposed, open end 14a of the tail pipe
22 14.

23 In use, a hole 50 is first drilled into tail pipe 14. The distance of
24 this hole 50 from the exposed end 14a of the tail pipe 14 is equal to
25 the distance D from the inner end 20 of the sleeve 12 to the hole 30 in
26 the sleeve. This enables the nut 40a and hole 30 to be aligned with the
27 hole 50 upon pushing the sleeve 12 into the exposed end 14a of the
28 tail pipe 14. The sleeve 12, fitting snug within the tail pipe 14 with the
29 holes 30 and 50 aligned, has the edge 18a of the open outer end 18

1 substantially flush with the edge 14b of the tail pipe 14. The stem 40b
2 of the bolt 40 is then passed through the holes 30 and 50 and screwed
3 into the nut 40a to hold the tail pipe ornament 10 securely in position
4 with the longitudinal axis X of the sleeve 12 co-extensive with the
5 longitudinal axis Y of the tail pipe 14.

6 As shown in Figs. 3A through 3D, an embodiment of this
7 invention, a tail pipe ornament 100, is designed to be used with a tail
8 pipe exhaust system having a tail pipe 114 (Figs. 2A through 2D)
9 terminating in an exposed open end 114a that lies in a plane P2 that is
10 at an acute angle A with respect to the longitudinal axis YY of the tail
11 pipe. Typically, the acute angle A is from about 35 to about 85 degrees.
12 Thus, as best shown in Figs. 2B and 2C, the exposed, open end 114a of
13 the tail pipe 114 has a lower portion LP1 that is inward with respect to
14 an upper portion UP1 of the end 114a. The edge 114b (Fig. 2B) at the
15 exposed open end 114a is chamfered at essentially the same acute
16 angle A as the end 114a.

17 The tail pipe ornament 100 to be inserted into the exposed open
18 end 114a of the tail pipe 114 is essentially the same as the tail pipe
19 ornament 10, except as best shown in Figs. 3C and 4C, the outer end
20 118 of its sleeve 112 lies in a plane P3 that is at an acute angle B with
21 respect to the longitudinal axis XX of the sleeve 112 and the
22 ornamental element 22 is positioned off center in the outer end 118 of
23 the sleeve 112. Thus, as shown in Fig. 3C, the sleeve 112 has a lower
24 portion LP of the edge 118a of the outer end 118 that is inward with
25 respect to an upper portion UP of the edge 118a. The edge 118a at the
26 outside end 118 is chamfered at essentially the same acute angle B as
27 the outside end 118. Moreover, the acute angles A and B are
28 substantially equal.

29 In contrast to the tail pipe ornament 10, the ornamental element

1 22 is displaced with respect to the longitudinal axis XX of the sleeve
2 112 so that its end BB is closer than its end AA to the cylindrical wall
3 member 112a forming the sleeve 112. Consequently, its connector arm
4 122a is a little longer than its connector arm 122b, both of which have
5 their opposed ends welded respectively to the wall member 112 and
6 the body 22c of the ornamental element 22. As with the tail pipe
7 ornament 10, the fastener 19 includes the nut 40a that is welded to the
8 inside surface S of the cylindrical wall member 112a. This nut 40a
9 aligned with the hole 30 in the wall member that is at a distance D
10 from its inner end, as discussed above. There is the hole 50 is formed
11 in the tail pipe 114 at the appropriate distance from the inward lower
12 portion LP1 of the end 114a so that the nut 40a and hole 30 are
13 aligned with the hole 50 upon pushing the sleeve 112 into open
14 exposed open end 114a of the tail pipe 114. Consequently, the sleeve
15 may be attached to the tail pipe in a fixed position by the bolt 40.

16 As illustrated in Figs. 4A through 4E, upon properly orienting the
17 tail pipe ornament 100 with the tail pipe 114 and inserting tail pipe
18 ornament 100 into the exposed open end 114a, the hole 50 is aligned
19 with the nut 40a and hole 30 in the sleeve. The sleeve 112, fitting snug
20 within the tail pipe 114 with the holes 30 and 50 aligned, has the edge
21 118a of the open outer end 118 substantially flush with the edge 114b
22 of the tail pipe 114. The chamfered edges 114b and 118a are also
23 substantially flush with each other. The stem 40b of the bolt 40 is then
24 passed through the holes 30 and 50 and screwed into the nut 40a to
25 hold the tail pipe ornament 100 securely in position with the
26 longitudinal axis XX of the sleeve 112 co-extensive with the
27 longitudinal axis YY of the tail pipe 114. As illustrated in Figs. 4C and
28 4D, with the sleeve 112 inserted into the tail pipe 114 and the
29 ornamental element 22 displaced and at an acute angle as discussed

1 above, a viewer, looking along the longitudinal axis YY into the open
2 end 118 of the sleeve 112, will see the ornamental element equally
3 spaced between the upper portion UP and lower portion LP.

4 In both embodiments, the tail pipe ornaments 10 and 100, are
5 each configured to fit snugly into the open outer end and adjacent
6 internal hollow body portion of the tail pipe into which they are
7 inserted. In other words, they each have an external configuration that
8 is substantially the same as the internal configuration of the open outer
9 end and adjacent internal hollow body portion of the tail pipe into
10 which they are inserted.

11 Other embodiments of this invention may include a tail pipe 200
12 (Figs. 5 and 5A), a tail pipe 300 (Figs. 6 and 6A), a sleeve 400 (Fig. 8A),
13 a sleeve 500 (Fig. 8A), and a sleeve 600 (Figs. 9A and 9B).

14 The tail pipes 200 and 300 are tubular members that have one or
15 more ornamental elements in their respective open outside ends 202
16 and 302. There are two stationary ornamental elements 22d and 22e
17 in the open end 202 of the tail pipe 200 and only one stationary
18 ornamental element 22f. In these embodiments the ornamental
19 elements 22d, 22e, and 22f are solid, but they may be open structures
20 that allow exhaust gas to flow through them. The open end 202 has a
21 rectangular configuration and the open end 302 has an oval
22 configuration. Typically, each tail pipe 200 and 300 has open inside
23 ends 204 and 304, respectively, that are cut to lie in a plane that is at
24 substantially a right angle to their respective longitudinal axes X1 and
25 Y1 of these tail pipes. These ends 204 and 304 are welded to the
26 outlets (not shown) of an automotive exhaust system (not shown).

27 In the tail pipe 200, the ornamental elements 22d and 22e are
28 centrally positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis X1. The
29 open outside end 202 lies in a plane is at a right angle to its

1 longitudinal axis X1, and the ornamental elements 22d and 22e each
2 have connector arms 222a and 222b extending outward in
3 substantially opposite directions from their respective bodies 222c.
4 These arms 222a and 222b are of substantially the same length and
5 their opposed terminal ends E3 and E4 (Fig. 5) are respectively welded
6 to the inside of the tail pipe 200 and the ornamental element 22d or
7 22e, as the case may be. The ornamental elements 22d and 22e,
8 including their associated arms 222a and 222b and bodies 222c, lie in
9 a plane that is at substantially a right angle to the longitudinal axis X1.

10 In the tail pipe 300, its outside end 302 is cut at acute angle D
11 with respect to its longitudinal axis Y1. The ornamental element 22f is
12 displaced so that its body 222c is closer to the lower portion LP2 of the
13 tail pipe 300 than the upper portion UP2. This is similar to the
14 placement of the ornamental element 22 in the tail pipe ornament 100.
15 The ornamental element 22f, including its associated arms 222a and
16 222b and body 222c, is positioned within the open end 302 at the
17 same acute angle as the open end 302, namely, the acute angle K.
18 Typically, the edge 302a of the open end 302 is chamfered at the same
19 angle K. Thus, with the ornamental element 22f displaced and at an
20 acute angle as discussed above, a viewer, looking along the longitudinal
21 axis Y1 into the open end 302 of the tail pipe, will see the ornamental
22 element 22f equally spaced between the upper portion UP2 and lower
23 portion LP2.

24 Figs. 8A and 8B show the sleeve 400 connected to the exposed
25 open end 14a of the tail 14 which is bent to provide the section 14c
26 which includes the exposed open end 14a. Fig. 8C depicts the sleeve
27 500 connected to the exposed open end of a straight tail pipe 14. The
28 sleeves 400 and 500 are both tubular members that have one or more
29 ornamental elements, for example, the ornamental element 22

1 corresponding to the number "3" in their respective open outside ends
2 402 and 502. Since the bent section 14c points upward, the
3 ornamental element may be centrally located in the exposed open end
4 14a even though this end is at an acute angle with respect to the axis
5 ZZ of the bent section.

6 Both of these sleeves 400 and 500 have a configuration
7 substantially the same as the exposed open ends of the tail pipe 14 to
8 which they are connected, for example, circular. Unlike the sleeves 12
9 and 100, respectively illustrated in Figs. 1 through 1B and 3A through
10 3D, the sleeves 400 and 500 fit over the exposed open end 14a of the
11 tail pipe 14 rather than inside these ends. In the sleeve 400, the
12 ornamental element 22 is positioned on the outside of the exposed
13 open end 14a of the tail pipe 14. In the sleeve 500, the ornamental
14 element 22 is positioned on the inside of the exposed open end 14a of
15 the tail pipe 14.

16 In the embodiment depicted in Figs. 9A and 9B, the sleeve 600
17 fits within the exposed open end 14a of the tail pipe 14, and it includes
18 a solid plate 602. The ornamental element 604 comprises an opening
19 cut into the plate 602 in the form of a heart.

20 The sleeves 400, 500, and 600 may include a fastener 17 that
21 connects these sleeves to the tail pipe 14 so that they are in a fixed
22 position relative to the tail pipe. Nevertheless, if a very tight fit is
23 achieved, the fastener 17 may be eliminated.

24 In all the embodiments discussed above, the ornamental elements
25 are substantially planar. These ornamental elements discussed above,
26 including their associated arms and bodies, have a height from about 2
27 to about 7 inches and a width from about 2 to about 7 inch.
28 Their bodies are relatively thin, having a thickness that does not
29 exceed about 1 inch, for example, from about 1/8 to about 1/2 inch.

1 Their connector arms are stainless steel wires having a diameter of
2 about 1/8 inch and a length from about 1/2 to about 1 inch,
3 depending on the location of the ornamental elements to which they
4 are attached. The bodies of the ornamental elements discussed above
5 may be solid or formed by bent wires in outline. They may be, for
6 example, Roman letters as shown in Fig. 7A, or Arabic numerals as
7 shown in Fig. 7B, or Roman numerals as shown in Fig. 7C. They may be
8 other symbols also, for example, Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek,
9 Russian, or Sanskrit characters; signs of the Zodiac; standard
10 ornamental shapes such as, for example, a heart, diamond, club, spade;
11 trademark logos; etc. In all the embodiments discussed above, it is
12 desirable to chrome plate the entire structure, including the
13 ornamental elements and their associated arms and bodies.

14

15 SCOPE OF THE INVENTION

16

17 The above presents a description of the best mode contemplated
18 of carrying out the present invention, and of the manner and process
19 of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as
20 to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and
21 use this invention. This invention is, however, susceptible to
22 modifications and alternate constructions from that discussed above
23 which are fully equivalent. Consequently, it is not the intention to
24 limit this invention to the particular embodiments disclosed. On the
25 contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications and alternate
26 constructions coming within the spirit and scope of the invention as
27 generally expressed by the following claims, which particularly point
28 out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention: